

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

FRIDAY : : : : : FEBRUARY 15

Davis and Gear on the bench! Oh, Lord!

It is also a question whether the Constitution will follow the Supreme Court.

Papa Ita may be proof against warm rocks but a lighted cigar touched to the sole of his foot is something which even the magic of a Tahitian Kahuna cannot endure.

The Kansas City (Kas.) saloonkeepers are preparing to ward off Mrs. Nation with the liberal use of cold water applied by a hose. As Mrs. Nation is not used to taking her cold water in this way, the effect on her system will arouse much pathological interest.

It is absurd to say that the Government of Hawaii is extravagant because its per capita cost is greater than that of some populous States. Where there are five millions of people to divide the bills of Government the per capita rating is naturally less than where the expense falls, as in Hawaii, upon 150,000 people. Whether the State or Territory is large or small it must have a certain amount of official machinery; and if there is a small population the individual burden seems large. In the case of Hawaii the amusing proposal is made to reduce that burden by setting up two subsidiary systems of government that would have to be paid for also.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Independent, offers the following:

"We are on friendly terms with the P. C. Advertiser as a rule, and we thank our contemporary for printing in its issue a picture of Mrs. Nation, the saloon-window-smasher. From a scientific point of view we now ask our friend to produce a picture of Mr. Nation. We really desire to know how that gentleman looks, before the Legislature meets and a few bills are introduced relating to divorces and the rights of husbands."

So gentle, manly a request meets with cordial acquiescence. The melancholy countenance of Mr. Nation will appear in this paper tomorrow unless the sympathies of our Art Department arrest our pictorial processes in the meantime.

UNFIT FOR A JUDGESHIP.

The street rumor that George A. Davis had received the unanimous endorsement of the Republican Territorial Committee for Circuit Judge, vice Silliman, resigned, was followed up last night with the result that the Advertiser got full confirmation, from a member of the committee, of this astonishing procedure.

We cannot imagine that the Territorial Committee acted in this matter with deliberation. We cannot think that it took into its field of view the honor of the courts, the interests of justice or the dignity of the bar. It must have confined itself to the single proposition that Davis, as one of the stump speakers who assisted the Republican nominee for Congress to defeat last fall, had done his part in a bargain for "recognition" and that the judicial vacancy, being the only prize in sight, should thereby go to him.

Who is George A. Davis? Everybody who knows Honolulu is aware that, but for the pity of official friends, he would have spent months in jail during the past year for offenses against the peace. Time after time this man, drunk, disorderly, profane and verging on delirium, has been in the hands of the police. He has been put in a cell to sober off. He has been caught half naked in the street raving incoherently against those whom he believed to be his enemies. Scandalous charges have been made against him in a divorce suit. He has disturbed the peace of neighbors with his demands for whiskey. Scores of people have regarded him and still regard him as the victim of dementia. The only excuse made for Davis is that he has a "high-strung and uncertain nervous temperament." Very likely he has. But is a man whose nerves are so far from being under control that he intermittently disgraces himself and affronts the law and decent instincts of society, a fit subject to put on the bench? Does not the Territorial Republican Committee impeach its own right to make recommendation to the President when it asks him to throw an ermine mantle over the shoulders of a man who may, at any time, step down from the bench and roll with it in the gutter?

In view of the disgrace which the Territorial Committee would visit upon the bench and bar we adjure the Bar Association to act at once. Long ago a committee of the Association, made up of J. K. Kaula, W. O. Smith and F. M. Hatch, was named to recommend some suitable man for the Silliman vacancy. Why has it not acted? It is not too late, however, to make up for lost time and we trust that the committee now sees the necessity of coming to the instant defense of the legal profession and of laymen who may have to seek justice from the Circuit Court.

The Advertiser regrets the need of going into the personalities of the Davis case. It has refused over and over again to report the offenses of Davis, deeming him a private citizen who, if treated considerably by the police, ought not to be sought out and exposed by the press. But when he comes up for the honorable, responsible and powerful office of judge it is time for all whose duty it is to safeguard public interests, to protest and to give reasons why the protest should not be disregarded.

(BLIND) LEADER OF THE BLIND.

The Independent, which opposed the party of the same name in last fall's canvass, is trying to ingratiate itself with the ruling native faction for the sake of legislative favors. We have no objection to that as two other journals of this city, pretending to be Republican, are setting it the example. What we want to say is that the Independent is doing a very bad turn indeed to the party whose favor it now seeks, when it tries to minimize the danger in which the proposed extravagance of the Legislature would involve the native electorate.

Taking a text from the Advertiser's leading article of yesterday the Independent says:

The claims of the people whose properties were destroyed by the order of Dole during the plague scare must be paid. Damages must and will be paid to the men who in 1895 were thrown into prison because they displeased the faction which is hiring a newspaper man to write against his own convictions in the Advertiser. An appropriation will be passed for a suitable amount for Liliuokalani, and the Baldwin gang will vote for it, because he and his crew realize the outrage and insult offered by the lunatics in their hire in 1895 and 1896.

Congress approves of all these appropriations and Congress has no idea of curtailing the rights and privileges which we gained through the Organic Act. Congress is rather amused to see our missionary clique getting it in the neck after the said clique put up lots of money for Senators who grin at them now and shake hands with "Bob" Wilcox and rubberneck with anything Hawaiian.

It is a rather brazen assumption that Congress "approves of all these appropriations" when Congress has voted upon none of them. The only item in the bill of plunder—the \$250,000 for Liliuokalani—was laughed out of Congress before it reached a vote in committee. It may indeed be that members of Congress treat Wilcox with civility but that is a distinction which every newcomer enjoys. All Wilcox might do or say could not, however, stay the interfering hand of Congress if the Hawaiian Legislature should enter upon a course of spoliation and no one knows this better than Wilcox himself. He has been told as much in set terms; he has advised his compatriots here to go slow; he is conscious that his backing, which is neither Republican nor Democratic but which was organized to oppose both, gets very little respect indeed from a Republican and Democratic Congress.

Now it ought to be clear to even the Independent, which is bright enough to have made the most of the short novitiate it has had in things American, that business has the decisive hand in the legislation of the United States. Business passed the Dingley tariff; it passed the gold standard bill; it carried expansion measures in the interests of trade; it put up the money which settled the campaign bills of the Republican party in the late quadrennial fight. Business is king. McKinley's is a business administration. The voice of business goes further with it than does any other voice save patriotism. And let us add that a very large sum was asked last fall of the business interests of Hawaii by the Republican National Committee, the money was secured and more will be asked for next time. Is any one so simple as to suppose that the Republican leaders in Congress are going to stand idly by and see so generous a contributor robbed to make a holiday for a party that opposes the Republicans and would ruin the material welfare of Hawaii if it could?

We feel as certain as we can be of anything in the future that, if the Legislature passes the plunder bills, the native suffrage will not last a year longer. The great sugar interests of Hawaii, affiliated as they are with the sugar interests of the United States, could appeal to Congress with a persuasive force not to be resisted, least of all by a nondescript Delegate whose vanity and incompetence are his most conspicuous traits. The general business interests, whose prosperity adds so much to the customs revenues of the Union and to mainland trade, could, in making an appeal for relief, get the aid of all its mainland connections. If necessary the pressure of a billion dollars could be brought on Congress and where that pressure was used legitimately and in a good cause no Congress could resist it.

Nor would there be any division on party lines in the Senate and House, as the attitude of the Democrats in favor of a color line in the suffrage has been succinctly stated by Senator Tillman.

In view of all these facts the Independent takes a grave responsibility when it tries to mislead the native legislators into the belief that a program of plunder could be safely indulged in. We recognize the incentive as regards the 1895 claims, for the editor of the Independent is one of the claimants. Nevertheless, to follow up the line of procedure he has marked out would be to rush headlong over a precipice. It would not be the first time either that they had found a bad fall at the end of his leadership.

LI HUNG CHANG.

While it is yet doubtful that Li Hung Chang is dead, the rumor that he has passed away turns the public mind once more towards a man whose career possesses elements of the most varied and dramatic interest. How a peasant-born youth, in the oldest and most conventional country of the world, could make himself the richest man in an empire, and how a poor Chinaman in the service of the proud and haughty Manchus—the conquerors of his race—could become the most honored and responsible dignitary at the Manchu court, are questions which the life of Li Hung Chang has answered. The story is something like that of Napoleon, of Disraeli, of Lincoln and of others who stand on the highest plane of historical conspicuity, though it is marked with characteristics, born of Oriental life and training, which are widely different from theirs.

According to some accounts Li Hung Chang was the son of a rice farmer. His father had some learning and sent his son to the best schools in the province of Ngan-Wel, where he had been born. Gifted with a firm memory and an industrious habit, the lad went ahead easily and while still very young took the Hanlin degree—a distinction nearly equivalent to Ph. D. About this time the Taiping rebels invaded his province and he joined the Imperial troops under the famous Americans, Ward and Burgevine. When Ward died and was succeeded by the British General Gordon, Li Hung Chang had acquired some rank in the army and was made Gordon's right-hand man. Thenceforward his promotion was rapid. In 1872 he became Viceroy of Peking, the province in which Peking is situated, and later became a hereditary noble with the rank of Earl. Being the shrewdest, the most far-sighted and procrastinating diplomat in China, Li Hung Chang became indispensable to the throne; and although he has passed through many untoward experiences politically he has been the Thiers of China in its present difficulties.

Great as a statesman, Li Hung Chang long ago became the most conspicuous business man and capitalist in the Far East. How he made his money is a tale full of Oriental cunning and duplicity not unminged with worse qualities. It is said that he owned, or owns, the rice fields of a whole province; that the taxes of half of China pay a certain tribute to him; that he owns a line of steamers which commands a profitable trade and one which no competing line can get; that he is a usurer who does not hesitate to make his official position the leverage of his blackmail. It gave a clear insight to his character when he said to ex-Secretary John W. Foster that a man like him who had been premier of the great Republic, ought to have piled up a colossal fortune. Earl Li's own acquisitions are reckoned all the way from \$100,000,000 to \$500,000,000.

The acumen, the far-sightedness and the hospitality to new ideas which General Grant recognized in Li Hung Chang induced the great American to class him first in a group of three statesmen, of whom Gladstone and Bismarck were the other two. The praise was high but after all, a man whose statesmanship is carried on as Li Hung Chang's has been in the face of an unwilling people and an uncertain court—whose ideas of progress have been always resisted by the inert mass of the nation and been violently opposed by his imperial mistress, the Catharine of China—such a man has proved himself of tougher fiber than statesmen who, like Gladstone and Bismarck, won their triumphs with a nation at their backs.

As to specific services, Li Hung Chang is the founder of the modern Chinese army and navy; the originator of the first native steamship line; the man who did most to give China a railroad; the negotiator of peace with Japan in 1895; the founder of the new Chinese financial system; and the man who has done most to prepare the empire for Western enlightenment. He it

is, or was, to whom the court turned in its recent troubles and who succeeded in halting the allied armies at Peking.

We hope this great man is not dead. Bad as his private character may be according to Western standards, he is needed now in China, on the score of his public character, more than he ever was before.

UNION PACIFIC AFFAIRS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—The Tribune tomorrow will say: Horace G. Burt, president of the Union Pacific, is at the Waldorf-Astoria. In an interview he explained at length the condition of the Union Pacific, which has just acquired the Southern Pacific. He said that the great transaction would not affect present traffic arrangements.

YOKOHAMA, Jan. 31.—The amount of stamps sold in Borneo and Labuan during 1899 was £20,000, but the postage paid on letters sent from these two colonies never exceeds the sum of £800 a year. The remainder, £19,200, may be presumed to find its way into albums all over the world.

YOKOHAMA, Feb. 1.—The ebb and flow of the tide in Oita bay (Bungo channel) have been very irregular of late and people are much alarmed, believing that the changes portend a tidal wave.

BY AUTHORITY.

FENCE COMMISSIONERS' NOTICE, DISTRICT OF KONA, ISLAND OF OAHU.

Upon the petition of Anna A. Perry, trustee, under the will of J. Perry, deceased, to decide upon the question of a division of fence between the land owned and controlled by her and known as Wallupe, District of Kona, Island of Oahu, and the land owned and controlled by Mr. Charles Lucas and Mrs. Charles Lucas and known as Niu, in the same district.

Public notice is hereby given to all persons interested or their agents to appear before us on the said lands on February 14, 1901, at 10 o'clock a. m., in order to pass over and run the line of said fence and to decide of the kind of fence to be built, the share which such owner shall build, and the time within which such work of building said fence shall be done.

A. B. WOOD, Chairman.
J. H. BOYD,
C. D. CHASE.

Honolulu, February 7, 1901.

The hearing on the above matter has been postponed to Thursday, March 7, 1901, at the same hour and place.

A. B. WOOD, Chairman.
J. H. BOYD,
C. D. CHASE.

Honolulu February 13, 1901. 5730

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Of the T. S. ADYAR MADRAS. Will deliver a lecture on

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MONDAY EVENING

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Subject, "Art of Divine Healing," with a talk on the dangers of mesmerism and hypnotism.

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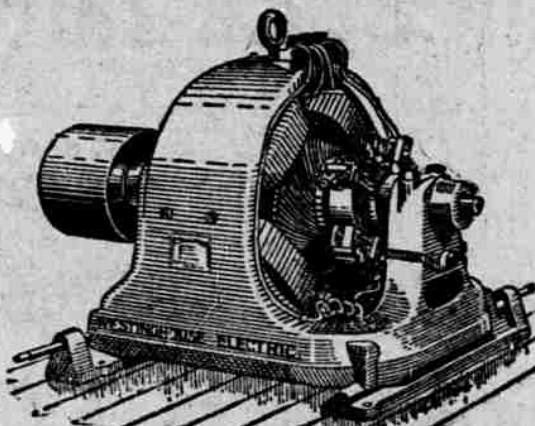
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